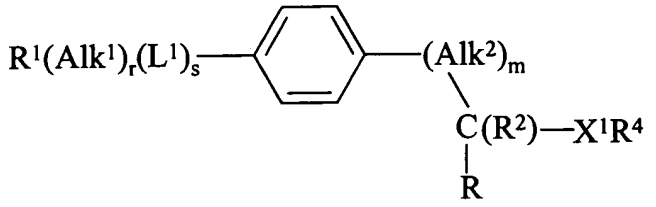

(1a)

wherein:

R is a carboxylic acid [or a derivative thereof];

$R^1$ is an optionally substituted [cycloaliphatic, polycycloaliphatic, heterocycloaliphatic, polyheterocycloaliphatic, aromatic or heteroaromatic group;] phenyl, pyridyl, or pyrimidinyl group;

$Alk^1$ is an optionally substituted aliphatic or heteroaliphatic chain;

$L^1$ is a linker atom or group;

r and s, which may be the same or different, is each zero or an integer 1;

$Alk^2$ is a straight or branched alkylene chain;

m is zero or an integer 1;

$R^2$ is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;

$X^1$ is a group selected from $-N(R^3)CO-$, (where $R^3$ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group); $-N(R^3)SO_2-$, $-N(R^3)C(O)O-$ or $-N(R^3)CON(R^{3a})-$ (where $R^{3a}$ is a hydrogen atom or a straight or branched alkyl group);

$R^4$ is an optionally substituted aliphatic, cycloaliphatic or polycycloaliphatic group;

and the salts, solvates, hydrates and N-oxides thereof[.];

with the provisos that:

when $R^1$ is unsubstituted phenyl, $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_s-$ is a -CONH- group, $Alk^2$ is $-CH_2-$, m is an integer 1, $R^2$ is a hydrogen atom, and $X^1$ is a $-NHC(O)O-$ group, $R^4$ is not a t-butyl group;

when $R^1$ is unsubstituted phenyl, $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_2-$ is a -CONH- group, $Alk^2$ is $-CH_2-$, m is an integer 1, $R^2$ is a hydrogen atom, and $X^1$ is a -NHC(O)- group, $R^4$ is not a 1-[(phenylmethoxy)carbonylamino]isobutyl group; and

when $R^1$ is 2-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl, $-(Alk^1)_r(L^1)_2-$ is a -CONH- group, $Alk^2$ is $-CH_2-$, m is an integer 1, $R^2$ is a hydrogen atom, and $X^1$ is a -NHC(O)- group, $R^4$ is not a 4-[[[(t-butyloxy)carbonyl]amino]methyl]cyclohexyl group.

Cancel claims ~~2, 3, and 4~~, without prejudice.

Add claims 15, 16, 17, 18, and 19.

--15. A method according to Claim 14 wherein said disease or disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory arthritis, multiple sclerosis, allograft rejection, diabetes, inflammatory dermatoses, asthma, and inflammatory bowel disease.

16. A method according to Claim 15 wherein said inflammatory arthritis is selected from the group consisting of rheumatoid arthritis vasculitis and polydermatomyositis.

17. A method according to Claim 16 wherein said inflammatory dermatoses are selected from the group consisting of psoriasis and dermatitis.

18. A method for inhibiting, in a mammal, the binding of α4 integrins to the ligands thereof, comprising administering to the mammal an effective amount of a compound according to Claim 1.

19. A method according to Claim 18 wherein the α4 integrins are α4β1 integrins.--